
GLOSSARY OF RELEVANT HOUSING TERMS

This glossary provides definitions of terms commonly found in Housing Elements, General Plans and other planning and policy documents. The abbreviations and definitions may include terms not found in the Colma Housing Element.

1. Abbreviations

ABAG: Association of Bay Area Governments

AMI: Area Median (Household) Income

BMR: Below-market-rate dwelling unit

C/CAG: City/County Association of Governments, San Mateo County

CEQA: California Environmental Quality Act

CIP: Capital Improvements Program

COG: Council of Governments

EIR: Environmental Impact Report

FAR: Floor Area Ratio

FY: Fiscal Year

GMI: Gross Monthly Income

HCD: Housing and Community Development Department of the State of California

LAFCO: Local Agency Formation Commission

N/A: Not Applicable

PD: Planned Development

RHNA: Regional Housing Needs Allocation

2. Definitions

Acres, Gross: The entire acreage of a site. Most communities calculate gross acreage to the centerline of proposed bounding streets and to the edge of the right-of-way of existing or dedicated streets.

Acres, Net: The portion of a site that can actually be built upon. The following generally are not included in the net acreage of a site: public or private road rights-of-way, public open space, and flood ways.

Adverse Impact: A negative consequence for the physical, social, or economic environment resulting from an action or project.

Affordability Requirements: Provisions established by a public agency to require that a specific percentage of housing units in a project or development remain affordable to extremely low, very-low and low income households for a specified period.

Affordable Housing: Housing capable of being affordably purchased or rented by a household with very low, low, or moderate income, based on a household's ability to make monthly payments necessary to obtain housing. Housing is considered affordable when a household pays less than 30 percent of its gross monthly income (GMI) for housing, including utilities.

Agency: The governmental entity, department, office, or administrative unit responsible for carrying out regulations.

Apartment: (1) One or more rooms of a building used as a place to live, in a building containing at least one other unit used for the same purpose. (2) A separate suite, not owner occupied, which includes kitchen facilities and is designed for and rented as the home, residence, or sleeping place of one or more persons living as a single housekeeping unit.

Appropriate: An act, condition, or state that is considered suitable.

Area; Area Median Income: As used in State of California housing law with respect to income eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), "area" means metropolitan area or non-metropolitan county.

Below-market-rate (BMR) Housing Unit: (1) Any housing unit specifically priced to be sold or rented to low- or moderate-income households for an amount less than the fair-market value of the unit. Both the State of California and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development set standards for determining which households qualify as "low income" or "moderate income." (2) The financing of housing at less than prevailing interest rates.

Building: Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy.

Buildout; Build-out: Development of land to its full potential or theoretical capacity as permitted under current or proposed planning or zoning designations.

California Building Code (CBC): A statewide standard building code that sets forth minimum standards for construction in California. The Town of Colma adopted this code.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): A State law requiring State and local agencies to regulate activities with consideration for environmental protection. If a proposed activity has the potential for a significant adverse environmental impact, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared and certified as to its adequacy before taking action on the proposed project. An Initial Study must be prepared for housing elements, leading to a Negative Declaration in most cases.

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) : A program, administered by the Town government and reviewed and adopted by its City Council, which schedules permanent improvements, usually for a minimum of five years in the future, to fit the projected fiscal capability of the

local jurisdiction. The program generally is reviewed annually, for conformance to and consistency with the General Plan.

Census: The official decennial enumeration of the population conducted by the federal government.

Community Care Facility: Any facility maintained and operated to provide non-medical residential care, day treatment, adult day care, or foster family agency services for six or fewer persons. "Six or fewer persons" does not include the licensee or members of the licensee's family or persons employed as facility staff. Community care facilities which serve six or fewer persons are considered a residential use of property.

Compatible: Capable of existing together without conflict or ill effects.

Condominium: A structure of two or more units, the interior spaces of which are individually owned; the balance of the property (both land and building) is owned in common by the owners of the individual units. (See "Townhouse.")

Congregate Care: Apartment housing, usually for seniors, in a group setting that includes independent living and sleeping accommodations in conjunction with shared dining and recreational facilities. Congregate care usually implies a higher level of care than independent living. (See "Community Care Facility.")

Consistent: Free from variation or contradiction. Programs in the General Plan are to be consistent, not contradictory or preferential. State law requires consistency between a General Plan and implementation measures such as the zoning ordinance.

County: County with a capital "C" generally refers to the government or administration of a county. County with a lower case "c" may mean any county or may refer to the geographical area of a county (e.g., the county's 20 cities).

Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs): A term used to describe restrictive limitations that may be placed on property and its use, and which usually are made a condition of holding title or lease.

Criterion: A standard upon which a judgment or decision may be based. (See "Standards.")

Density, Residential: The number of permanent residential dwelling units per acre of land. Densities specified in the General Plan may be expressed in units per gross acre or per net developable acre. (See "Acres, Gross," and "Developable Acres, Net.")

Density Bonus: The allocation of development rights that allow a parcel to accommodate additional square footage or additional residential units beyond the maximum for which the parcel is zoned, usually in exchange for the provision or preservation of an amenity at the same site or at another location. Under California law, a housing development that provides 10 percent of its units for moderate income or lower income households, or 5 percent of its units for very-low income households, or is a senior housing facility, is entitled to a density bonus.

Developable Acres, Net: The portion of a site that can be used for density calculations. Some communities calculate density based on gross acreage. Public or private road rights-of-way are not included in the net developable acreage of a site.

Developable Land: Land that is suitable as a location for structures and that can be developed free of hazards to, and without disruption of, or significant impact on, natural resource areas.

Developer: An individual who or business that prepares raw land for the construction of buildings or causes to be built physical building space for use primarily by others, and in which the preparation of the land or the creation of the building space is in itself a business and is not incidental to another business or activity.

Development: The physical extension and/or construction of urban land uses. Development activities include subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities, and other facilities; installation of septic systems; grading; deposit of refuse, debris, or fill materials; and clearing of natural vegetative cover (with the exception of agricultural activities). Routine repair and maintenance activities are exempted.

Development Fee: (See "Impact Fee.")

Development Rights: The right to develop land by a land owner who maintains fee-simple ownership over the land or by a party other than the owner who has obtained the rights to develop. Such rights usually are expressed in terms of density allowed under existing zoning. For example, one development right may equal one unit of housing or may equal a specific number of square feet of gross floor area in one or more specified zone districts. (See "Interest, Fee.")

District: (1) An area of a town or county that has a unique character identifiable as different from surrounding areas because of distinctive architecture, streets, geographic features, culture, landmarks, activities, or land uses. (2) A portion of the territory of a town or county within which uniform zoning regulations and requirements apply; a zone.

Diversity: Differences among otherwise similar elements that give them unique forms and qualities. E.g., housing diversity can be achieved by differences in unit size, tenure, or cost.

Duplex: A single building under single ownership that is designed for occupation as the residence of two families living independently of each other. No part of a duplex is considered a "second unit."

Dwelling Unit: A room or group of rooms (including sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation facilities, but not more than one kitchen), which constitutes an independent housekeeping unit, occupied or intended for occupancy by one household on a long-term basis.

Elderly Housing: Typically one- and two-bedroom apartments or condominiums designed to meet the needs of persons 62 years of age and older or, if more than 35 units, persons 55 years of age and older, and restricted to occupancy by them. (See "Senior Housing.")

Emergency Shelter: Housing with minimal supportive services that is limited to occupancy of six months or less by a homeless person. No individual or household may be denied emergency shelter because of an inability to pay. Supportive services usually include food, counseling, and access to other social programs. (See "Homeless" and "Transitional Housing.")

Encourage, v: To stimulate or foster a particular condition through direct or indirect action by the private sector or government agencies.

Enhance, v: To improve existing conditions by increasing the quantity or quality of beneficial uses or features.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): A report required by the California Environmental Quality Act for a project, including a General Plan, that may have a significant effect on the environment. The report assesses all the environmental characteristics of an area and determines what effects or impacts will result if the area is altered or disturbed by a proposed action. (See "California Environmental Quality Act.")

Extremely Low Income Household: A household with an annual income no greater than approximately 30 percent of the area median family income, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). A local agency may either use available census data to calculate the percentage of very-low income households that qualify as extremely low income, or may presume that 50 percent so qualify. California Govt. Code §65583(a)(1).

Fair Market Rent: The rent, including utility allowances, determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for purposes of administering the Section 8 Existing Housing Program.

Family: (1) Two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption [U.S. Bureau of the Census]. (2) An individual or a group of persons living together who constitute a bona fide single-family housekeeping unit in a dwelling unit, not including a fraternity, sorority, club, or other group of persons occupying a hotel, lodging house or institution of any kind.

Feasible: Capable of being done, executed, or managed successfully from the standpoint of the physical and/or financial abilities of the implementer(s).

Finding(s): The basis upon which decisions are made. Findings are used by government agents and bodies to justify action taken by the entity and must be supported by substantial evidence.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR): The gross floor area permitted on a site divided by the total net area of the site, expressed in percent. For example, on a site with 10,000 net sq. ft. of land area, a Floor Area Ratio of 100 percent will allow a maximum of 10,000 gross sq. ft. of building floor area to be built. On the same site, an FAR of 150 percent would allow 15,000 sq. ft. of floor area; an FAR of 200 percent would allow 20,000 sq. ft.; and an FAR of 50 percent would allow only 5,000 sq. ft. Also commonly used in zoning, FARs typically are applied on a parcel-by-parcel basis as opposed to an average FAR for an entire land use or zoning district.

Footprint; Building Footprint: The outline of a building at all of those points where it meets the ground.

General Plan: A compendium of town policies regarding its long-term development, in the form of maps and accompanying text. The General Plan is a legal document required of each local agency by the State of California Government Code Section 65301 and adopted by

the City Council or Board of Supervisors. In California, the General Plan has seven mandatory elements (Circulation, Conservation, Housing, Land Use, Noise, Open Space, Safety and Seismic Safety) and may include any number of optional elements (such as Air Quality, Economic Development, Hazardous Waste, and Parks and Recreation). The General Plan may also be called a "City Plan," "Comprehensive Plan," or "Master Plan."

Granny Flat: (See "Second Unit.")

Group Quarters: A residential living arrangement, other than the usual house, apartment, or mobile home, in which two or more unrelated persons share living quarters and cooking facilities. Institutional group quarters include nursing homes, orphanages, and prisons. Non-institutional group quarters include dormitories, shelters, and large boarding houses.

Guidelines: General statements of policy direction around which specific details may be later established.

Historic; Historical: A historic building or site is one that is noteworthy for its significance in local, state, or national history or culture, its architecture or design, or its works of art, memorabilia, or artifacts.

Homeless: Persons [and families] who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or whose primary nighttime residence is a shelter, an institution, or place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans. (US Code, Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I, §11302) Includes those who are accommodated with friends or others with the understanding that shelter is being provided as a last resort. (See "Emergency Shelter" and "Transitional Housing.")

Household: All those persons—related or unrelated—who occupy a single housing unit. (See "Family.")

Households, Number of: The count of all year-round housing units occupied by one or more persons. The concept of household is important because the formation of new households generates the demand for housing. Each new household formed creates the need for one additional housing unit or requires that one existing housing unit be shared by two households. Thus, household formation can continue to take place even without an increase in population, thereby increasing the demand for housing.

Housing and Community Development Department of the State of California (HCD): The State agency that has principal responsibility for assessing, planning for, and assisting communities to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income households.

Housing Element: One of the seven State-mandated elements of a local general plan, it assesses the existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community, identifies potential sites adequate to provide the amount and kind of housing needed, and contains adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing. Under State law, Housing Elements must be updated every five years.

Housing Unit: A house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied as a separate living quarters, or if vacant, is intended for occupancy as a separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the

occupants live separately from any other individuals in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall. For vacant units, the criteria of separateness and direct access are applied to the intended occupancies whenever possible. (Source: US Census 2000. See also "Dwelling Unit," "Family," and "Household.")

Impact: The effect of any direct man-made actions or indirect repercussions of man-made actions on existing physical, social, or economic conditions.

Impact Fee: A fee, often called a development fee, levied on the developer of a project by a town, county, or other public agency as compensation for otherwise-unmitigated impacts the project will produce. California Government Code Section 66000 et seq. specifies that development fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged. To lawfully impose a development fee, the public agency must verify its method of calculation and document proper restrictions on use of the fund.

Implementation: Actions, procedures, programs, or techniques that carry out policies.

Improvement: The addition of one or more structures or utilities on a parcel of land.

Infill Development: Development of vacant land (usually individual lots or left-over properties) within areas that are already largely developed.

Infrastructure: Public services and facilities, such as sewage-disposal systems, water-supply systems, other utility systems, and roads.

In Lieu Fee: Cash payments that may be required of an owner or developer as a substitute for a dedication of land or construction of below-market-rate housing, and referred to as in lieu fees or in lieu contributions.

Institutional Use: (1) Publicly or privately owned and operated activities that are institutional in nature, such as hospitals, museums, and schools; (2) churches and other religious organizations; and (3) other nonprofit activities of a welfare, educational, or philanthropic nature that cannot be considered a residential, commercial, or industrial activity.

Interest, Fee: The broadest ownership interest in land, entitling a land owner to exercise the greatest control over use of land, subject only to recorded restrictions such as easements and covenants, government land use regulations, and other limitations.

Issues: Important unsettled community matters or problems that are identified in a community's general plan and are dealt with by the plan's goals, policies, and implementation programs.

Land Use Classification: A system for classifying and designating the appropriate use of properties.

Land Use Regulation: A term encompassing the regulation of land in general and often used to mean those regulations incorporated in the General Plan, as distinct from zoning regulations (which are more specific).

Lease: A contractual agreement by which an owner of real property (the lessor) gives the right of possession to another (a lessee) for a specified period of time (term) and for a specified consideration (rent).

Lot: (See "Site.")

Lot of Record: A lot that is part of a recorded subdivision or a parcel of land that has been recorded at the County Recorder's office containing property tax records.

Low-income Household: A household with an annual income no greater than approximately 80 percent of the area median income for a household of that size and based on the latest available eligibility limits established by either the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 8 Housing Program or the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). (See "Area.")

Maintain, v: To keep in an existing state. (See "Preserve, v.")

Mandatory Element: A component of the General Plan mandated by State Law. California State law requires that a General Plan include elements dealing with seven subjects—circulation, conservation, housing, land use, noise, open space and safety—and specifies to various degrees the information to be incorporated in each element.

Manufactured Housing: Residential structures that are constructed entirely in the factory, and that since June 15, 1976, have been regulated by the federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 under the administration of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). (See "Mobile Home" and "Modular Unit.")

May: That which is permissible.

Minimize: To reduce or lessen, but not necessarily to eliminate.

Ministerial Decision: An action taken by a governmental agency that follows established procedures and rules and does not call for the exercise of judgment in deciding whether to approve a project.

Mitigate: To ameliorate, alleviate, or avoid to the extent reasonably feasible.

Mixed-use: Properties on which various uses, such as office, commercial, institutional, and residential, are combined in a single building or on a single site in an integrated development project with significant functional interrelationships and a coherent physical design. A "single site" may include contiguous properties.

Mobile Home: A structure, transportable in one or more sections, built on a permanent chassis and designed for use as a single-family dwelling unit and which (1) has a minimum of 400 square feet of living space; (2) has a minimum width in excess of 102 inches; (3) is connected to all available permanent utilities; and (4) is tied down (a) to a permanent foundation on a lot either owned or leased by the homeowner or (b) is set on piers, with wheels removed and skirted, in a mobile home park. (See "Manufactured Housing" and "Modular Unit.")

Moderate-income Household: A household with an annual income between the lower income eligibility limits and 120 percent of the area median family income, as established by either the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). (See “Area” and “Low-income Household.”)

Modular Unit: A factory-fabricated, transportable building or major component designed for use by itself or for incorporation with similar units on-site into a structure for residential, commercial, educational, or industrial use. Differs from mobile homes and manufactured housing by (in addition to lacking an integral chassis or permanent hitch to allow future movement) being subject to California housing law design standards. California standards are more restrictive than federal standards in some respects (e.g., plumbing and energy conservation). Also called Factory-built Housing and regulated by State law of that title. (See “Mobile Home” and “Manufactured Housing.”)

Multifamily Building: A detached building designed and used exclusively as a dwelling by three or more families occupying separate suites.

Must: That which is mandatory.

Necessary: Essential or required.

Need: A condition requiring supply or relief. The Town or County may act upon findings of need within or on behalf of the community.

Objective: A specific statement of desired future condition toward which the Town or County will expend effort in the context of striving to achieve a broader goal. An objective should be achievable and, where possible, should be measurable and time-specific. The State Government Code (Section 65302) requires that general plans spell out the “objectives,” principles, standards, and proposals of the general plan. “The addition of 30 units of affordable housing by 2006” is an example of an objective.

Ordinance: A law or regulation set forth and adopted by a governmental authority, such as the Town of Colma.

Overlay: A land use designation on the Land Use Map, or a zoning designation on a zoning map, that modifies the basic underlying designation in some specific manner. In Colma, the Design Review (DR) designation is considered an overlay.

Parcel: A lot, or contiguous group of lots, in single ownership or under single control, usually considered a unit for purposes of development.

Planned Development (PD): A large-scale development whose essential features are a definable boundary; a consistent but not necessarily uniform, character; overall control during the development process by a single development entity; private ownership of recreation amenities; and enforcement of covenants, conditions, and restrictions by a master community association. In Colma, a Planned Development is permitted certain flexibility in the standards of development (such as setback and percentage of lot coverage) that would not be permitted in the underlying land use designation.

Planning and Research, Office of (OPR): A governmental division of the State of California that has among its responsibilities the preparation of a set of guidelines for use by local jurisdictions in drafting General Plans.

Policy: A specific statement of principle or of guiding actions that implies clear commitment but is not mandatory. A general direction that a governmental agency sets to follow, in order to meet its goals and objectives before undertaking an action program. (See "Program.")

Poverty Level: As used by the U.S. Census, families and unrelated individuals are classified as being above or below the poverty level based on a poverty index that provides a range of income cutoffs or "poverty thresholds" varying by size of family, number of children, and age of householder. The income cutoffs are updated each year to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index.

Preserve: To keep safe from destruction or decay; to maintain or keep intact. (See "Maintain.")

Principle: An assumption, fundamental rule, or doctrine that will guide general plan policies, proposals, standards, and implementation measures. The State Government Code (Section 65302) requires that general plans spell out the objectives, "principles," standards, and proposals of the general plan. "Adjacent land uses should be compatible with one another" is an example of a principle.

Program: An action, activity, or strategy carried out in response to adopted policy to achieve a specific goal or objective. Policies and action statements establish the "who," "how" and "when" for carrying out the "what" and "where" of goals and objectives.

Protect: To maintain and preserve beneficial uses in their present condition as nearly as possible. (See "Enhance.")

Recognize: To officially (or by official action) identify or perceive a given situation.

Redevelop: To demolish existing buildings; or to increase the overall floor area existing on a property; or both; irrespective of whether a change occurs in land use.

Regional: Pertaining to activities or economies at a scale greater than that of a single jurisdiction, and affecting a broad geographic area.

Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA): A quantification by the regional planning agency, which in the Bay Area is ABAG, the Association of Bay Area Governments, or by HCD of existing and projected housing need, by household income group, for all localities within a region. San Mateo County and its 20 cities have used a provision in the applicable statute that allows formation of a subregional organization to accept the county's RHN from ABAG with authority to distribute the total subregional need across the county's 20 cities and its unincorporated areas. Members of the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) agreed on and adopted the local distribution of the subregional housing need for the individual jurisdictions.

Regulation: A rule or order prescribed for managing government.

Rehabilitation: The repair, preservation, and/or improvement of substandard housing.

Residential: Land designated in the Town General Plan and zoning ordinance for buildings consisting only of dwelling units. May be improved, vacant, or unimproved. (See “Dwelling Unit.”)

Residential Care Facility: A home serving six or fewer persons or family units who have chronic, life-threatening illness and who are 18 years of age or older or are emancipated minors. A “family unit” means at least one parent or guardian and one or more of that parent or guardian’s children, one of whom has a chronic, life-threatening illness. “Six or fewer persons” does not include the licensee or members of the licensee’s family or persons employed as facility staff. (Health and Safety Code, §1568.01) Residential care facilities which serve six or fewer persons are considered a residential use of property. (Health and Safety Code, §1568.0831)

Residential, Multi-family: Usually three or more dwelling units on a single site, which may be in the same or separate buildings.

Residential, Single-family: A single dwelling unit on a building site.

Restore: To renew, rebuild, or reconstruct to a former state.

Restrict: To check, bound, or decrease the range, scope, or incidence of a particular condition.

Retrofit: To add materials and/or devices to an existing building or system to improve its operation, safety, or efficiency. Buildings have been retrofitted to use solar energy and to strengthen their ability to withstand earthquakes, for example.

Rezoning: An amendment to the map and/or text of a zoning ordinance to effect a change in the nature, density, or intensity of uses allowed in a zoning district and/or on a designated parcel or land area.

Second Unit: A self-contained unit providing living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation accommodations, either attached to or detached from, and in addition to, the primary residential unit on a single lot. Sometimes called “Granny Flat.” (See “Dwelling Unit”; also see Government Code §65852.2(i)(4).)

Senior Housing: (See “Elderly Housing.”)

Seniors: Persons age 62 and older, or 55 years and older in senior housing with at least 35 dwelling units.

Shall: That which is obligatory or necessary.

Shared Living: The occupancy of a dwelling unit by persons of more than one family in order to reduce housing expenses and provide social contact, mutual support, and assistance.

Should: Signifies a directive to be honored if at all possible.

Significant Effect: An adverse impact on the environment. May include, but is not limited to, significant changes in an area’s air, water, and land resources.

Single-family Dwelling, Attached: A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally connected with at least one other such dwelling unit. (See "Townhouse.")

Single-family Dwelling, Detached: A dwelling unit occupied or intended for occupancy by only one household that is structurally independent from any other such dwelling unit or structure intended for residential or other use. (See "Family.")

Single Room Occupancy (SRO): A single room, typically 80-250 square feet, with a sink and closet, but that requires the occupant to share a communal bathroom, shower, and/or kitchen.

Site: A parcel of land used or intended for one use or a group of uses and having frontage on a public or an approved private street. A lot.

Special Needs Groups: Those segments of the population which have a more difficult time finding decent affordable housing due to special circumstances. Under California Housing Element statutes, these special needs groups consist of the elderly, handicapped, large families, female-headed households, farmworkers and the homeless. A jurisdiction may also choose to consider additional special needs groups in the Housing Element, such as students, military households, other groups present in their community.

Specific Plan: Under Article 8 of the Government Code (Section 65450 et seq.), a legal tool for detailed design and implementation of a defined portion of the area covered by a General Plan. A specific plan may include all detailed regulations, conditions, programs, and/or proposed legislation that may be necessary or convenient for the systematic implementation of any General Plan element(s).

Sphere of Influence (SOI): The probable ultimate physical boundaries and service area of a local agency (town or district) as determined by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County.

Standards: (1) A rule or measure establishing a level of quality or quantity that must be complied with or satisfied. The State Government Code (Section 65302) requires that general plans spell out the objectives, principles, "standards," and proposals of the general plan. Examples of standards might include the number of acres of park land per 1,000 population that the community will attempt to acquire and improve, or the "traffic Level of Service" (LOS) that the plan hopes to attain. (2) Requirements in a zoning ordinance that govern building and development as distinguished from use restrictions—for example, site-design regulations such as lot area, height limit, frontage, landscaping, and floor area ratio.

Structure: Anything constructed or erected that requires a permanent location on the ground (excluding swimming pools, fences, and walls used as fences).

Subdivision: The division of a tract of land into defined lots, either improved or unimproved, which can be separately conveyed by sale or lease, and which can be altered or developed. "Subdivision" includes a condominium project as defined in Section 1350 of the California Civil Code and a community apartment project as defined in Section 11004 of the Business and Professions Code.

Subdivision Map Act: Division 2 (Sections 66410 et seq.) of the California Government code, this act vests in local legislative bodies the regulation and control of the design and improvement of subdivisions, including the requirement for tentative and final maps. (See "Subdivision.")

Subregional: Pertaining to a portion of a region. C/CAG is a subregional task force.

Substandard Housing: Residential dwellings that, because of their physical condition, do not provide safe and sanitary housing.

Substantial: Considerable in importance, value, degree, or amount.

Supportive Housing: Housing with no limit on length of stay, occupied by a target population defined in Health and Safety Code §53260(d), and that is linked to onsite or offsite services that assist the supportive housing resident in retaining the housing, improving his or her health status, and maximizing his or her ability to live and, when possible, work in the community. In general, "target population" means low-income adults with one or more disabilities, and may include families with children, elderly persons, young adults aging out of the foster care system, individuals exiting from institutional settings, veterans, or homeless people.

Town: Town with a capital "T" generally refers to the government or administration of a town. Town with a lower case "t" may mean any town or may refer to the geographical area of a town (e.g., the properties in the town.)

Townhouse; Townhome: A one-family dwelling in a row of at least three such units in which each unit has its own front and rear access to the outside, no unit is located over another unit, and each unit is separated from any other unit by one or more common and fire-resistant walls. Townhouses usually have separate utilities; however, in some condominium situations, common areas are serviced by utilities purchased by a homeowners association on behalf of all townhouse members of the association. (See "Condominium.")

Transitional Housing: Buildings configured as rental housing developments, but operated under program requirements that call for the termination of assistance and recirculation of the assisted unit to another eligible program recipient at a future time, but no less than six months. In general, the program provides supportive services (including self-sufficiency development services) for recently homeless persons, with the goal of moving them to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

Undue: Improper, or more than necessary.

Uniform Housing Code (UHC): State housing regulations governing the condition of habitable structures with regard to health and safety standards, and which provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of housing in accordance with the Uniform Building Code (UBC).

Urban Services: Utilities (such as water, gas, electricity, and sewer) and public services (such as police, fire, schools, parks, and recreation) provided to an urbanized or urbanizing area.

Use: The purpose for which a lot or structure is or may be leased, occupied, maintained, arranged, designed, intended, constructed, erected, moved, altered, and/or enlarged in accordance with the Town zoning ordinance and General Plan land use designations.

Use, Non-conforming: (See “Non-conforming Use.”)

Use Permit: The discretionary and conditional review of an activity or function or operation on a site or in a building or facility.

Vacant: Lands or buildings that are not actively used for any purpose.

Very-low Income Household: A household with an annual income no greater than approximately 50 percent of the area median family income, based on the latest available eligibility limits established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Section 8 Housing Program or the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). “Very-low income households” includes extremely low income households as defined in Health and Safety Code §50106. A local agency may either use available census data to calculate the percentage of very-low income households that qualify as extremely low income, or may presume that 50 percent so qualify. California Govt. Code §65583(a)(1). (See “Area.”)

Zero Lot Line: A detached single family unit distinguished by the location of one exterior wall on a side property line.

Zoning: The division of a town or county by legislative regulations into areas, or zones, which specify allowable uses for real property and size restrictions for buildings within these areas; a program that implements policies of the General Plan.

Zoning District: A designated section of a town or county for which prescribed land use requirements and building and development standards are uniform.

Zoning, Inclusionary: Regulations that increase housing choice by providing the opportunity to construct more diverse and economical housing to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income families. Often such regulations require a minimum percentage of housing for low- and moderate-income households in new housing developments and in conversions of apartments to condominiums.

Zoning Map: Government Code Section 65851 permits a legislative body to divide a county, city, town, or portions thereof, into zones of the number, shape, and area it deems best suited to carry out the purposes of the zoning ordinance. These zones are delineated on a map or maps, called the Zoning Map.